

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
  2. obtaining price data from each of a plurality of retailers and at least one manufacturer for a plurality of goods;
  4. receiving an order for at least one of the plurality of goods;
  5. processing a monetary transaction for the order such that the manufacturers of the goods in the order and one of the plurality of retailers are each credited with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the order according to the price data.
1. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
  2. selecting one of a plurality of manufacturer warehouses to fill the order.
1. The method of Claim 1 wherein obtaining price data comprises:
  2. obtaining a manufacturer cost for goods supplied by the manufacturer; and
  3. obtaining from the retailers a retailer profit data for the goods the retailer sells.
1. The method of Claim 3 wherein the retailer profit data is either a percentage above  
2. the manufacturer cost, or a specified sum.
1. The method of Claim 3 wherein the retailer profit data varies among the goods sold by the retailer.
1. The method of Claim 3 wherein the retailer profit data is the same for each of the goods sold by the retailer.

- PATENT*
- 1        7.     The method of Claim 3 wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is  
2     determined by the manufacturer cost and the retailer profit data for the good.
- 1        8.     The method of Claim 1 wherein the order is received from either a consumer or  
2     one of the plurality of retailers.
- 1        9.     The method of Claim 2 wherein selecting one of a plurality of manufacturer  
2     warehouses comprises:  
3              identifying one manufacturer warehouse capable of filling the order such that the  
4     manufacturer warehouse is geographically closest to either a customer or a customer selected  
5     retailer.
- 1        10.    The method of Claim 9 wherein selecting one of a plurality of manufacturer  
2     warehouses further comprises:  
3              identifying one manufacturer warehouse that is in the same country as the customer.
- 1        11.    The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
2              debiting the total value of the order against a credit card account of the customer.
- 1        12.    The method of Claim 11 wherein debiting the total value is performed after the  
2     order is shipped.
- 1        13.    The method of Claim 12 wherein processing a monetary transaction is performed  
2     immediately after debiting the total value.

1       14.     The method of Claim 1 wherein processing a monetary transaction is performed at  
2     a defined regular interval for multiple orders after the orders have shipped.

1       15.     The method of Claim 1 wherein processing a monetary transaction comprises:  
2     retaining a commission.

1       16.     The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
2     obtaining goods-related data from each of the retailers and each of the manufacturers.

1       17.     The method of Claim 16 wherein obtaining goods-related data comprises:  
2     obtaining a product data and an inventory data from each of the manufacturers; and  
3     obtaining a product line data from each of the retailers.

1       18.     A method comprising:  
2     obtaining price data from each of a plurality of retailers, a plurality of distributors, and at  
3     least one manufacturer for a plurality of goods;  
4     receiving an order for at least one of the plurality of goods;  
5     selecting one of the plurality of distributors to fill the order;  
6     processing a monetary transaction for the order such that the distributor selected to fill  
7     the order, one of the plurality of retailers, and the manufacturers of the goods in the order are  
8     each credited with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the order according to the  
9     price data.

1       19.     The method of Claim 18 wherein obtaining price data comprises:  
2     obtaining a manufacturer cost for goods supplied by the manufacturer;

3           obtaining from each of the distributors a distributor profit data for the goods the  
4           distributor distributes; and  
5           obtaining from the retailers a retailer profit data for the goods the retailer sells.

1           20.     The method of Claim 19 wherein distributor profit data is either a percentage  
2           above the manufacturer cost or a specified sum; and wherein retailer profit data is either a  
3           percentage above the sum of the manufacturer cost and the distributor profit data, or a specified  
4           sum.

1           21.     The method of Claim 20 wherein distributor profit data varies among the goods  
2           distributed by the distributor; and wherein retailer profit data varies among the goods sold by the  
3           retailer.

1           22.     The method of Claim 20 wherein distributor profit data is the same for each of the  
2           goods distributed by the distributor; and wherein retailer profit data is the same for each of the  
3           goods sold by the retailer.

1           23.     The method of Claim 20 wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is  
2           determined by the manufacturer cost, the distributor profit data, and the retailer profit data for  
3           the good.

1           24.     The method of Claim 20:  
2           wherein two or more levels of distributors participate in providing the goods but only the  
3           selected distributor fills the order;

4 wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is determined by the manufacturer cost, the  
5 distributor profit data for each of the participating distributors, and the retailer profit data for the  
6 good; and

7 wherein processing a monetary transaction further comprises:

8 crediting all distributors who participated in providing the goods a sum  
9 representing their portion of the total value of the order.

1 25. The method of Claim 18 wherein the order is received from either a consumer or  
2 one of the plurality of retailers.

1 26. The method of Claim 18 wherein selecting a distributor comprises:  
2 identifying one distributor capable of filling the order such that the distributor is  
3 geographically closest to either a customer or a customer selected retailer.

1 27. The method of Claim 26 wherein selecting a distributor further comprises:  
2 identifying one distributor that is in the same country as the customer.

1 28. The method of Claim 18 further comprising:  
2 debiting the total value of the order against a credit card account of the customer.

1 29. The method of Claim 28 wherein debiting the total value is performed after the  
2 order is shipped.

1 30. The method of Claim 28 wherein processing a monetary transaction is performed  
2 immediately after debiting the total value.

1       31. The method of Claim 18 wherein processing a monetary transaction is performed  
2 at a defined regular interval for multiple orders after the orders have shipped.

1       32. The method of Claim 18 wherein processing a monetary transaction comprises:  
2 retaining a commission.

1       33. The method of Claim 18 further comprising:  
2 obtaining goods-related data from each of the retailers, each of the distributors, and each  
3 of the manufacturers.

1       34. The method of Claim 33 wherein obtaining goods-related data comprises:  
2 obtaining a product data from each of the manufacturers;  
3 obtaining an inventory data from each of the distributors; and  
4 obtaining a product line data from each of the retailers.

1       35. A method comprising:  
2 obtaining price data from each of a plurality of retailers, a plurality of distributors, and a  
3 manufacturer for a plurality of goods;  
4 receiving an order for at least one of the plurality of goods;  
5 selecting one of the plurality of distributors to fill the order;  
6 processing a monetary transaction for the order such that the distributor selected to fill  
7 the order, one of the plurality of retailers, and the manufacturer are each contemporaneously  
8 credited with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the order according to the price  
9 data.

1       36. The method of Claim 35 wherein obtaining price data comprises:

2 obtaining a manufacturer cost for the goods supplied by the manufacturer;  
3 obtaining from each of the distributors a distributor profit data for the goods inventoried  
4 by the distributor; and  
5 obtaining from each of the retailers a retailer profit data for the goods sold by the retailer.

*Claim 37*  
1 37. The method of Claim 35 wherein distributor profit data is either a percentage  
2 above the manufacturer cost or a specified sum; and wherein retailer profit data is either a  
3 percentage above the sum of the manufacturer cost and the distributor profit data, or a specified  
4 sum.

*Claim 38*  
1 38. The method of Claim 36 wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is  
2 determined by the manufacturer cost, the distributor profit data, and the retailer profit data for  
3 the good.

1 39. The method of Claim 35 wherein receiving an order comprises:  
2 receiving an order from either a consumer or one of the plurality of retailers.

*Claim 40*  
1 40. The method of Claim 35 wherein selecting a distributor comprises:  
2 selecting one distributor capable of filling the order such that the distributor is  
3 geographically closest to a customer or a customer selected retailer.

1 41. The method of Claim 35 wherein processing a monetary transaction comprises:  
2 debiting the total value of the order against a credit card account of a customer.

1 42. A machine readable medium having stored thereon instructions which when  
2 executed by a processor cause the machine to perform operations  
3 comprising:

4       obtaining price data from each of a plurality of retailers, a plurality of distributors, and at  
5       least one manufacturer for a plurality of goods;  
6       receiving an order for at least one of the plurality of goods;  
7       selecting one of the plurality of distributors to fill the order;  
8       processing a monetary transaction for the order such that the distributor selected to fill  
9       the order, one of the plurality of retailers, and the manufacturers of the goods in the order are  
10      each contemporaneously credited with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the  
11      order according to the price data.

1                  43.     The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein obtaining price data causes the  
2        machine to perform operations comprising:

3        obtaining a manufacturer cost for goods supplied by each of the manufacturers;  
4        obtaining from each of the distributors a distributor profit data for of the goods the  
5        distributor distributes; and  
6        obtaining from each of the retailers a retailer profit data for the goods the retailer sells.

1                  44.     The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein distributor profit data is either  
2        a percentage above the manufacturer cost or a specified sum; and wherein retailer profit data is  
3        either a percentage above the sum of the manufacturer cost and the distributor profit data, or a  
4        specified sum.

1                  45.     The machine readable medium of Claim 43 wherein a retail price of the plurality of  
2        goods is determined by the manufacturer cost, the distributor profit data, and the retailer profit  
3        data for the good.

1       46. The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein receiving an order causes the  
2 machine to perform operations comprising:

3           receiving the order from either a consumer or one of the plurality of retailers.

1       47. The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein selecting a distributor causes  
2 the machine to perform operations comprising:

3           selecting one distributor capable of filling the order such that the distributor is  
4 geographically closest to either a customer or a customer selected retailer.

1       48. The machine readable medium of Claim 47 wherein selecting a distributor causes  
2 the machine to perform operations comprising:

3           selecting the one distributor that is in the same country as the customer.

1       49. The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein processing a monetary  
2 transaction causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

3           debiting the total value of the order against a credit card account of a customer.

1       50. The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein processing a monetary  
2 transaction causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

3           retaining a commission responsive to the total value of the order.

1       51. The machine readable medium of Claim 42 further causing the machine to perform  
2 operations comprising:

3           obtaining goods-related data from each of the retailers, each of the distributors, and each  
4 of the manufacturers.

1       52. The machine readable medium of Claim 51 wherein obtaining goods-related data  
2 causes the machine to perform operations comprising:  
3           obtaining a product data from each of the manufacturers;  
4           obtaining an inventory data from each of the distributors; and  
5           obtaining a product line data from each of the retailers.

1       53. A method comprising:  
2           obtaining product data and price data for a plurality of goods from each of a plurality of  
3           retailers, a plurality of distributors, and a plurality of manufacturers;  
4           receiving orders for some of the plurality of goods from a plurality of customers;  
5           obtaining credit card authorization for the orders;  
6           selecting one of the plurality of distributors to fill each of the orders;  
7           receiving an acknowledgement when each order ships;  
8           debiting the credit card accounts of the customers;  
9           crediting the distributors, the retailers, and the manufacturers at a defined time after orders  
10          have been shipped with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the orders shipped  
11          according to the price data; and  
12          retaining a commission for the orders.